Rec^d March 23^d
Ans Aug 25

Society Hill, S. C. March 6/49

Dear Sir,

I rec^d yours of 8th ult: in due course of mail. — Your remarks on Sparganium & Euphorbia are very valuable, & will serve me a good purpose in an examination of those Genera.

I am glad to learn that the Box of Plants arrived safely. I feared that you would not like the cones of Pinus palustris — but it was the best I could do last year, & I did not like to wait any longer.

If you desire it, & it will not be too late, I will see if I can get fresh cones next Autumn, & will send them with flowering specimens which are to be gathered this Spring. — And, if you wish, I will also make up the complement of Aristolochia, var:

I spoke of Pinus variabilis being in the Box, but this originated in a mistake, which is not worth while to explain. I can send it next time, & perhaps a specimen of P. pungens. I got a splendid specimen last Fall from the Mt^ns of Georgia, & if not already sent to Europe, you shall have it. — There is P. inops also from the same region at your service.

I am much obliged to you for writing to M. Corda. I am very anxious to have the benefit of his

coresponden ce. — He will find a new & splendid Phyco: logical field in Texas, worthy of his skilful pencil.

That Plantago n. sp. can hardly be P. major. My fear is, that it is P. interrupta. — But having no good fruiting specimens of either species I have given it the go-by, & leave it to Gray.

I was very sorry that I could not examine Herb: Ell: when in Charleston last month. But I was so much hurried, & so unwell, that I only took a glance at the outsides of the Portfolios. I was anxious to settle his Euphorbiae for you. Next year, I can perhaps do better.

I find that my Rhynchospora Ravenellii is R. diver: gens, Chapman mss:, & I have therefore adopted the latter name in a paper of miscellanies lately sent to Silliman. My Panicum lacustre, you will find described under the name of P. carinatum, Torr: first published, but not well described, in my Enumeration of Plants of Wilmington, &c. in Boston Journ: Nat: Hist: vol: I.

After the above paper is printed I shall probably bid farewell to any regular study of Phanogams, & confine myself chiefly to Fungi. — These furnish as much as I can attend to, though I shall be glad to increase my stock of Phanerogamic specimens with any number of new N. American species. I am hoping for some from you, gathered in our far west & southwest regions.

very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann

St. Louis

Missouri

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Rec'd July 16th
Ans Aug 25

Society Hill, S.C. July 2/49.

My Dear Sir,

I enclose a Chara, rec'd a few days since from Mr. Ravenel, which has a different aspect from anything in my Herbarium. The nucules are very fine. I am anxious to learn your opinion of it. Your correspondence with A. Braun has, I suppose, made you quite au fait in this Order.

I find this Spring abundance of the enclosed Euphorbia. Do you want more of it? I have gathered it in good fruit. I notice that it often bears only Male Flowers — So it is both Monœcious & Diœcious.

I have looked also after Potamogeton. I find, as yet, but one species — P. hybridus, Michx. If you want specimens I can send you some.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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Rec: June 26 1850
Ans Sept 25 1851

Society Hill, S. Car: June 13th — 1850

Dear Sir,

I am uncertain whether I am in debt to you for a letter or not. But as I have had nothing of special import to write about, I suppose the delay is quite excusable. — I write now, however, as there are a few words to be said upon some matters touching certain plants in Elliott's Herbarium about which you have made some enquiries. I am sorry that the result of my examination is so unsatisfactory; — but that Herbarium is a miserable & small collection, & the specimens are not always ticketed with the names published in the Flora. My attention was chiefly given to the Carices at the request of Booth. Nothing can be more unsatisfactory. — But I also examined Euphorbia for your sake. Here is the result.

E. maculata = E. hypericifolia.

E. hypericifolia — rotted.

E. dentata (misit Muhl:) — rotted.

E. cyathophora — nearly destroyed, but the true thing.

E. depressa (misit Torrey.) = maculata.

E. corollata — the common form.

E. polygonifolia — from the "banks of the Hudson", & the same with what I have sent you under this name from our sea coast.

These are all of the Genus in Herb. Ell.

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I looked also at Sparganium.

S. ramosum = our common large species at the South.

S. Americanum (misit Torrey) – narrow leaved species.

I did not examine these critically, but I took them for the species which commonly pass among us under the above names.

As you have paid much attention to the Pines, I must mention that the P. glabra, Walt. was detected last year by my friend Ravenel. When on a visit to him he pointed the trees out to me, & I am satisfied now, as well as himself, that it is a good species, distinct from any I know of. It is nearest allied to P. mitis, Michx., but flowers at a different time, has narrower & more elongated cones, & the trunk is so smooth & light colored, that I should not have taken it for a Pine, were it not for the foliage. With a passing glance, the trunk might readily pass for a Maple. I have a few specimens, in which you will have a share, but I have so few other things for you, that I do not feel warranted in sending you a package.

I made search & enquiry last Fall for cones of P. palustris (australis), but could get none. They seemed to have been all destroyed by a snow & freeze in April preceeding. If not too late, I will try next Fall again.

I was much obliged to you for your trouble with M. Corda on my account. His letter was not encouraging enough to induce me to prolong the correspondence, & I have not written to him. The high favor of his patronage I do not regard as sufficient equivalent for the specimens I would have sent him. There is some fiction in his letter, to which, as you are aware, he is somewhat addicted. He said to a correspondent of mine, that he had traced spiral vessels for 40 feet!

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I hope you may this year escape the terrible scourge
with which your city was last year visited.
I shall be happy to hear from you at any time.

Very respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

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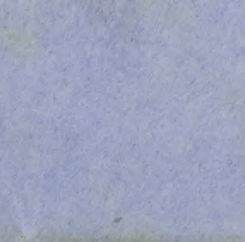

Dr. Geo. Engelmann
St. Louis
Mo.

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Rec- May 28 1851
Ans Mar. 17 1856

Society Hill, S. Car: May 15th 1851.

Dear Sir,

I have yours of 25th ult., & am very glad to hear again from you. — I am greatly obliged to you for the packet of specimens sent to Charleston, which will probably come to hand in a few days by a river-Steamer. — I do not know that I shall be able to make up another package for you which will be worth sending. The little file I commenced long ago has recieved very few accessions, & I have pretty much done collecting Phænogams. I did intend this yeear to employ my children in gathering & prefsing a goodly quantity for a few corespondents; — but I have been three times prostrated within six months by a sort of nervous Rheumatism, which has greatly enfeebled me & obliges me to leave home for several months to endeavor to recruit by relaxation & travel.

I intend leaving on the 30th & returning about the middle of October. I shall lie along between this & Boston (perhaps the White Mts of N. H.) as health & circumstances may determine. Should you have occasion to write to me in the mean time, you may direct to Philadelphia ~~or Boston~~. I may perhaps take the Virginia Mts on my way back.

The heat of Summer is so great here that I have ceased herborizing in that season for two years, except on a very small scale & near my house. Thus your Sparganium request has been neglected.

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I have never paid much attention to Yucca. We have three species easily recognized & distinguished; but I cannot say whether the flowers offer any character, ~~but~~ thought my impression is that they ~~vary~~ differ in the size & form of the petals. — You are welcome to the following brief notes, which are all I can offer.

Y. filamentosa. — Leaves with smooth filamentose margins, the upper & under surface minutely verrucose-scabrous, slightly convolute at the summit & terminated by a short rigid point. — I enclose a flower, & a bit from the margin of a leaf, which will also illustrate the roughness of the surfaces.

Y. gloriosa. — Leaves with perfectly smooth margins, flat, with a convolute summit & very rigid spiny point. — I have only seen this, in its native place, upon the sea-shore of N. Car:, & not in fruit or flower. I believe I have seen it in cultivation, but I have no specimens. I enclose a fragment to show the margin of leaf.

Y. draconis. — Leaves with roughly crenulate margins, convolute summit & rigid spiny point. — Fruit obtusely trigonous, black, pulpy, oblong, 3-4in. long, 1¼in. thick. — Common in cultivation. — I enclose margin of leaf, & seeds. — I would enclose a flower, but I am not quite certain ~~that~~ whether my specimens belong to this or the preceding.

As to Lathyrus pusillus, I have only a flowering specimen from Arkansas.

You are doubtless right about Polygonum incarnatum & Lapathifolium; — but when I sent you the former I was unacquainted with the latter.

If I had rec'd your letter about a week sooner, I could easily have arranged to send the few plants I have laid by for you, by one of your medical delegates. I have got three specimens of P. glabra for you. In the

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singular smoothness & light color of the trunk this differs from all Pines I have seen, except P. Strobus. – otherwise it looks much like P. mitis (variabilis).

Will you be able to persuade the Botanists who explore the West for making collections, to collect Fungi more largely. They should not attempt to gather the fleshy species, which are troublesome to dry well, & can only be determined in a dry state by means of full notes upon certain characters taken from fresh specimens. But the woody & coriaceous, & especially the Lichen-like forms found upon dead sticks, leaves & wood, require generally nothing more than wrapping up in a piece of paper, recording upon it the species of wood it grows upon. For certain preservation, they should when dry be well dosed with Corrosive Sublimate dissolved in Spts. of Turpentine or Alcohol. Many species collected by Jendtler & Wright, which I received from Prof. Torrey & Mr. Tuckerman, were quite destroyed by mites & beetles. The above solution is a sure protection.

If these Collectors would like to distribute species of Fungi, I will see to their elaboration & description.

Wishing you health & prosperity

I remain, Dear Sir,

very truly & respectfully yours

M. A. Curtis.

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Dr. Geo: Engelmann,
St. Louis
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Society Hill, S. C. March 14th 53.

My Dear Sir,

I meant you should keep that Podostemacea – I dont want it – so I send it back again. I am glad to have even an approximate name for it, & am much obliged to you for your reference.

Peter has sent me several specimens of the dwarf Trichomanes, since I last wrote – a pretty thing. He is a lucky fellow, as you say. These two species are truly interesting discoveries. The Atl States do not seem to be quite worked over yet. These two things, & my two(?), make a very respectable addition to our Flora. By "my two" I mean the Ilex (which I call I. Amelanchier – for it is not unlike A. canadensis both in fruit & foliage) & the doubtful Atyssa. I can make nothing of this last.

I have lately got DC. Prod. XIII pt. 1. & am completely stultified by Dunal in his Physalis & Solanum. It is a comfort, that I have precious few species of those genera. It occurred to me in reading over Physalis, that he had my P. maritima under two or three different names. – Does not Dunal take strange liberties with names of species? Is it sufficient cause for changing Lycium Europæum, that it is not found in all Europe, & is also found in Africa. A goodly number of our Canadensis, & Carolinensis, species would cease to be,

M.A.Curtis

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under such a canon as that.

Have you seen Ravenel's Fungi' bard.? He wants a notice of it in Sill. Journ: & it ought to have one. I feel some delicacy about doing it myself, because I am so much involved in the preparation of the work, more than I allowed Mr. R. to acknowledge. I furnished more than one fifth of the specimens, - examined nearly all, supplied most of the synonymy, & enabled him to authenticate (!) some Friesian & Schweinitzian species by giving him specimens from those authors. - In this state of the case, I prefer that you should do the Book up. But if you will not, let me know, & I will dash a few words to the Journal.

I have heard from S. Chapman. He has some time since prepared Mss. Flora through Rosacea, & seems disposed to go at it again in good earnest, if I say so. Of course I said, & gave him yours say. If no other good comes from this, it has induced Prof. Gibbes to relinquish his attempt.

Yours truly

M.A.C.

M.A.Curtis

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Rec'd May 28 1853
Ans March 17 1856

Society Hill, S. Car. May 16th 53.

My Dear Sir,

It is now a long time since anything has passed between us. I have pretty much done with Johansons, & so have little new to send you. Two or three things (among them Pinus glabra, Walt.) has been some time put by for you. Could you get them from Prof. Gray, if I send them to him in the course of a year? They are not worth sending by themselves.

I herewith enclose a couple of things. The Ehara is unknown to me, & I should be very glad to have your opinion of it. The Ilex I found here last Autumn in fruit, & this month in flower. It seems to me undescribed. Supposing it will be new to you, I suppose of course it will be acceptable.

I have a couple of species of Trichomanes from the upper part of Alabama (T. radicans, & T. Petersii, A. Gr.) which I will send if you wish them. They are an interesting addition to our Atlantic Flora. I can also send Psilotum triquetrum, but without fruit.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain
very respectfully yours
M. A. Curtis.

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Rec Aug 25 1853
Ans March 17 1856

Society Hill, S. Car. Aug: 15th 1853.

Dr. Geo. Engelmann

Dear Sir,

I have just rec'd the enclosed from M. Le: normand, with a request to forward it to you.

Some weeks ago I sent you a letter enclosing a few specimens. Among them was a Chara which I was anxious to have your judgment upon. May I hope for a reply when you can find a little leisure.

I have no botanical news with which to entertain you.

Hoping you are well & prosperous, I remain

very respectfully

yours &c.

M. A. Curtis.

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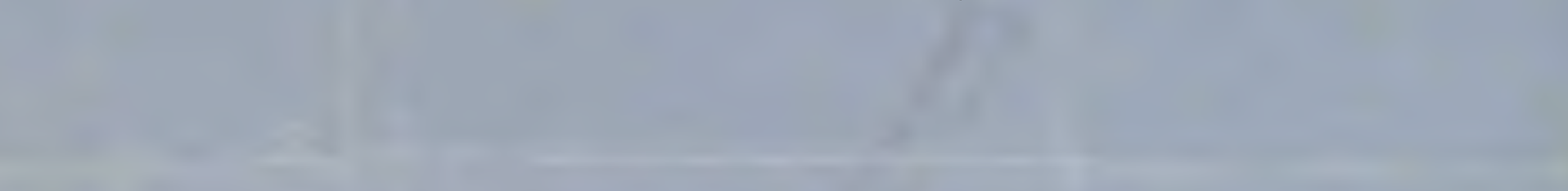

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Rec. April 6th
Ans. April 17

Society Hill, S. Car. March. 28th 1856.

My Dear Sir,

It is so long since I heard from you, that I had indeed "given you up." But so far from thinking" hard of you", I had considered your long silence very natural & proper. I had already informed you of my exclusive devotion to Phycology, in which you have little sympathy, & in which I can be of no service to you. I have not collected a flowering plant for some years, & do not intend to gather any more, & consequently can be of no further value to you in the way of exchange. But there is a small thin packet in some one of these Boxes around marked "for M. Engelmann", & which I have not looked into for years. It is not of sufficient value to justify any expense upon it, & so I have never sent it. But I shall soon have an opportunity of sending it in a gentleman's trunk to N. York, & I believe, if I find it worth your acceptance, I will send it to that City. Please let me know where you would have it deposited. This will be my last effort of the kind in your behalf. Would that it were of more worth.

I am very happy to have Braun's decision upon that Nitella. Your Letter to Mr. Ravenel has been enclosed to him, & you will probably hear from him in a week or ten days after you receive this.

You are very kind to offer your services for me in Europe. I have no correspondents that you will be likely to meet with, unless

they be Boissier or Duby at Geneva. I have just completed a package of Cryptogams to the latter. Please present them my respects, if you see them. There is nothing about which I would trouble you in my favor, unless it be to bring me into some profitable relation with any of the standard Mycologists of the Continent. I should like to exchange specimens of Fungi with two or three of them, besides those with whom I am already in correspondence. One in Vienna, Berlin, & Paris, would be very serviceable to me. — I will also ask, if you can attend to it, that you would ascertain who of the European devotees of Mycology would take a set of Venezuelan Fungi collected by Fendler. Fendler is about returning to Caraccas, & has promised to collect sets of Fungi. Of course I can not now say, what will be the extent & value of the collection. I have a few subscribers already engaged in this country, but must depend more upon the disposal of the sets in Europe for compensation. They will be sold only to pay expenses, not for profit. They will be elaborated by Mr. Berkeley of England & myself. — A few names from Europe will be of great use to me. I will not, however, urge my request further than will be perfectly convenient for you to grant.

In the matter of the Opuntiæ. I do not think I have ever seen more than O. vulgaris! in our Eastern section of U. S. This is sometimes wholly prostrate, again suberect. This is common in the Carolinas from the Sea Islands to within sight of the Blue Ridge, being most abundant in the sandy region of our Low Country. But my judgment in this matter is of little value. As I have never given our Prickly Pear any attention, & there was but one described in our books, I have passed them all over as one species. Nor have

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I but a single joint in my Herbarium. This, however, I have just com=
pared with some specimens which I sent my son for just now, growing
near by, which are identical. In comparing these with your description,
they seem to belong rather to your O. Rafinesquii. But I will en=
close a portion of a joint for your inspection. I shall be apt here=
after to inspect patches of this thing, in hope of finding the two
species. The largest joint just bought is 4 in. long by 2 wide, & is ob=
ovate, dark (in shots purplish) green, all have more or less stout spines 1/2–3/4
inch long, with reddish bristles at the base when old, rather pale on the
fresh joints.

No harm has been done to our vegetation that I can
discover. As elsewhere in the country, we have had an unprecedentedly
severe Winter. Snow lay upon the earth here six weeks – a thing
before unknown. Our trees & shrubbery do not suffer from cold, unless
after the sap has commenced running. A few years since some of
our forest trees, especially Hickories, were killed or much injured by a
cold spell in April. Ordinarily our Peach & Plum trees blossom
the last week in February or first week of March. Consequently we
deem ourselves very fortunate if we have Peaches three years in five,
as we have more or less frost in March. But I have never known
the trees to be injured. This year, Peaches & Plums are at this date
just coming into blossom. Last night much ice was formed. The forest
Oaks still carry the seared leaves of last year, showing that their sap
has not yet got into circulation. – The Thermometer rarely gets lower than
15° or 18° here, but the past Winter it has been down to 9°. And never
was there less sickness. Pneumonia is the most common & fatal disease
with us during Winter, but very few cases have occured this year, &

on only two plantations that I have heard of. The largest plantations have escaped entirely.

Notwithstanding my declaration of inability to be of further service to you by way of exchange, it will always afford me pleasure to hear from you, & I hope you will find time & disposition to show your good will towards me by writing occasionally.

Yours very truly,

M. A. Curtis,

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Rec'd May 18th — Society Hill, S. Car. May 8th 1856.
Ans same Day

Dear Sir,

I send Opuntia as desired. It has been lying detached some days, but has withered very little. I could not find old fruit. I hope you will succeed in growing it.

Many thanks for your notes upon Sagittaria, plants which I have never studied.

S. natans does not grow here, nor have I ever seen it living. I have specimens from Ch. Lavenel, & from Dr. Chapman of Florida, either of whom could perhaps supply you. I have but one good specimen in fruit, or I would send you one.

I have sent the small package, mentioned in my last, to Pr. York, & will direct it to be sent to Prof. Torrey. It is of trifling value, certainly not worth any expense to obtain it, containing nothing new, I believe, but Pinus glabra, Walt.

In haste, but truly yours

M. A. Curtis.

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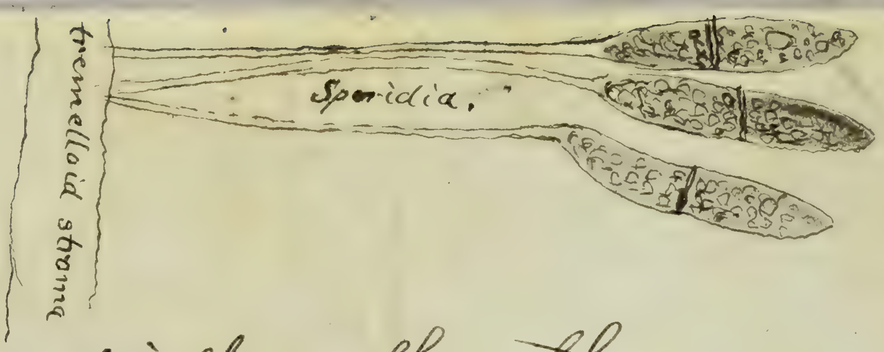
Rec'd June 12th

Society Hill, S. C. June 3d 1856.

My Dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that you rec'd my Fungi in fair order, & have hope of its living. You are certainly very welcome to any such small favors within my power, & it gives me much pleasure that in this instance I have been able to assist you in clearing up a question of doubt.

The "Cedar Balls", as they are commonly called, I was very glad to receive, as I had before no knowledge of the existence of this curious fungus west of the Alleganies. It is Podisoma macrosus, Schwein, found in the Atlantic States more or less, but very common at the South. The trees in my yard are sometimes covered with hundreds of them, which give the trees after a rain a very singular aspect. Your specimens are rather small, though they are found from the size of a Pea to that of a Goose Egg. This production is a true fungus: The long, yellowish processes from the thallus constitute the stroma



upon which grow the sporidia. Neither this thallus nor the stroma are essential to the generic character, as we have species which possess neither. Hence the interest of this species.

So Sir, I am not disposed to laugh, because you do not happen to know the name & structure of this production. You might as well laugh at me for not knowing Sanscrit which I never studied. One is under no obligation to know everything, nor to comprehend what he has never examined. — I am very glad to have the specimens, & shall put them in my Herbarium to illustrate a new locality.

In haste yours.

very truly & respectfully

M. A. Curtis.

N. B. I have directed the little parcel of Plants to be left with Dr. Torrey, N York.

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Dr. Geo. Engelmann

St. Louis

Missouri.

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Rec'd Sept 20/15

Society Hill, S. C., Sept. 8th/11 1556.

My Dear Sir

I have just got your favor from Cambridge, with the fragment of Fungus from Rocky Mts. It is not in the power of man to say what this is, not even the Genus, inasmuch as it does not include any portion of the hymenium. It would be as easy to tell the species of a tree or shrub from the same region from a chip cut out of the trunk. But nevertheless, the texture & taste of the fragment go far to justify your reference of it to "Boletus Laricis", or, as now called, Pol: yporus officinalis, & I shall put it away under this name. I can be certain of accuracy only by seeing a portion of the pores & the upper side of the pileus. — This thing, whatever it be, is not without interest, & I am glad you sent it.

I am sorry I can not supply any further material for the elucidation of Spargania & Sagittaria; but I

have long since sent you all I have that can be of use to you. As to collecting any more, I do not know that I shall ever pluck another Phænogam, as the Fungi are so numerous as to occupy all my spare time, & perhaps a little more. Were it not for this absorbing pursuit in my own specialty, & the vast amount of material on hand perpetually for investigation, I know of no one for whom I would collect desiderata with more pleasure than for yourself. I should gather specimens in full assurance that they would be well appreciated & well used.

Please to accept my best wishes for your enjoyments in your visit to Fatherland.

very truly & respectfully yours

M. A. Curtis.

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Hillsborough, N. Car: Oct. 30th 1865.

Rec'd Nov 11th
Ans Nov 26 My Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure, a few days ago, of welcoming a letter from you dated the 9th inst;— the first, I think, since you went to Europe. I am glad to hear again from you, & to find your zeal in rebus herbariis unabated. — In response to your good wishes for my welfare, I have to say that "I still live" & am in vigorous health; but not so ardent as formerly in my devotion to Natural Science. For the last few years I have attempted little except in the line of Edible Mushrooms which are now my chief hobby. If I can find a Publisher, you may soon hear of a Polyporus Americana.

I just escaped the loss of my collections last Spring. The tide of war was stayed, as it were, at my door. Sherman's Army was but six miles off from me, when Johnson surrendered. Lincoln had just been murdered, & the exasperated soldiers would hardly have spared any thing in the first town they would pass through after hearing of it. I could not have saved my property, I presume, from Kilpatrick's men, who seldom wanted excuses for plundering & destroying. Thank God, we were spared here. I had property burned in Fayetteville, however;— but have something left.

I shall be glad to see your Grape Fungi, both drawings & specimens, especially the latter. — The printed account of two forms raises a suspicion that they are two species familiar to me (but not ~~your~~ ~~species~~, but the Black Rot species not a Naemaspora (?)
^
) described by Berk: & Curt. But I can not say knowingly until I see them. — Dualism is the pest of some of the lower Orders of Fungi, but your two forms can hardly be an instance, (as you doubtfully suggest in your letter,) the one being effi- the other hypo-dermatous. — The common Oidium pest is pretty well ascertained now to be only a form of Erysiphe or grape Mildew. There is here, as you say, an immense field for careful observation. Who shall work it? — I was not aware that any one had satisfied himself by experiment of the identity of Aecidium Berberidis & Puccinia Graminis. I should like to see the proofs. I can not yet accept the statement. Yet the difference is still greater between Erysiphe & Oidium

I am sorry to find, on consulting my Herbarium, that I have no specimen of Pinus australis in flower. I am not living in the region of that tree; but, if I can think of it next Spring, I will try to procure a specimen for you thro' some person living in the Pine district. The point you make, as to the different position of the aments, is a new idea to me. Is there any peculiarity that can evade your attention!

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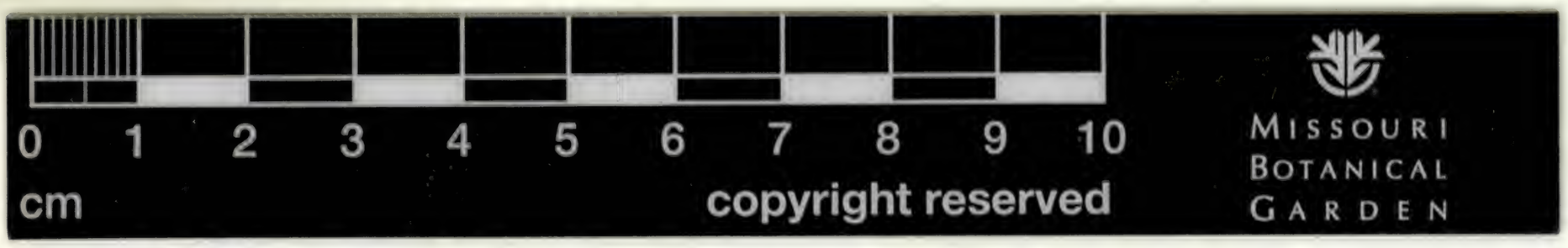
I am glad you are overhauling Juncus — "nodus vindice dignus". It needs elaborating, & who can do it better than Dr. Engelmann! I send you a fragment of my J. cy: lindricus. It looks different from J. marginatus, & yet I am not fully satisfied that it is distinct. I leave it to your better judgment & final decision.

I heard nothing of Dr. Chapman during the whole war. Dr. Gray lately wrote me, that he had a letter from him, & that he was "all right". I do not know whether the phrase means physically, politically, botanically, or locally right; perhaps all four. Not long ago I heard that he had been residing at Columbus, (Georgia) during part of the war; but I presume he has now returned to Florida, & so is locally right again. I do not know if he is yet right as to postal facilities, which are being very slowly restored off the lines of Rail Road. Between me & the North & West they are pretty regular. The first letter I received after our collapse, was from St. Paul's, Minnesota, last June, in about ten days; written, by the way, by one of your former citizens of Missouri, Dr. McMasters, Pres^t of St. Paul's College, Palmyra, whence he was driven by the war.

The Botrytis Viticola, B & C. has been a great pest about here



for the last two years, or, at least, has been connected with decay of both fruit & vines. It is not always easy to determine, whether these parasitic Fungi are the causes or the effects of disease. I have been familiar with this Botrytis for many years, & have seen the leaves of cultivated & Wild Vines in = fested with it year after year, & no harm ensuing. May its effects be the work of years? Or, may disease be progressing for years, almost, imperceptibly, of which this is but an effect. a quite I can not decide with any confidence.

I hope your enthusiasm & zeal may continue, & your labors be successful & appreciated. My own zeal is waning, due chiefly to my eyesight being impaired by too much work at the Microscope. I rarely venture now to indulge in the pastime of that interesting instrument. My interest in the labors & discoveries of others, however, is unabated. — Shut out, for four years, from all intercourse with the world of Science, curiosity is now eager to gather up what has been transpiring. My first enquiry was for the bills of mortality, fearing that some of my old friends might have been taken away. It is only within two or three months past, that I have learned of the death of Hooker, Darl = ington, Boott, & Short, with all of whom I had been in correspond = ence, & with Darlington for 30 years.

ENGELMANN PAPERS
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Hoping to hear again from you at your leisure,

very truly & respectfully yours

A. A. Curtis.

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Hillsborough, N. C. March 13/66.

Rec'd March 21st
Ans March 31

My Dear Sir,

Your favor of Dec: 26th, enclosing drawings of Fungi, has been a long time on hand. I should have replied sooner, but I have been all this time looking for the specimens, without which I will not be able to determine the species satisfactorily. The drawings are very good, but I have made no study of them, because I wished to compare the specimens, when I shall have less trouble with them. I recognize a few of them very readily, as

N° 15. Aecidium crustaceum, Berk: & Curt.

16. Erysiphe Syringae, Schwein.

17. " do , do — older.

18. Uredo Ruborum, Schwein.

20. Aecidium laceratum.

8. is a fine Sphaeria.

15 b. Mycoderma.

For several years past I have

rarely used the ellicroscope, as I found it was injuring my eyes

I have received the N° of the Transac=tions of your Society to which you refer, & have looked it over with pleasure.

As to the Pines I am not in their line of growth, i.e. such species as you wish. If you will address a line to H. W. Ravenel, Aiken, S. Car:, he may perhaps be able to send you (if you write soon,) fresh specimens of P. australis & P. glabra. He is the only Botanist in reach of the latter, which is unknown outside of Walter's old range. I passed thro' it with Ravenel some years ago, & was much struck with the appearance of P. glabra, which, in the trunk, looked much more like a Maple than a Pine, it was so smooth in the bark. I collected only leaves & old cones.—

I have no Aments of P. australis.

I will write at once to Ravenel, whom I have not heard from, for many a month, & ask him to collect for you, in prepa=ration for your demand.

The Pines have never received any attention from me, & so I can not answer your questions about them. I find that it is no easy matter for me now, to recal thoughts & opinions of former years about this & the other species or genus. The four years of war have crushed out a great deal of the knowledge & the interest that had been previously gathered up. Some of them are slowly reviving, but I shall never again be what I once was. I will not continue this subject.

I remember this much in regard to Juncus, — that I came to make no account of the flat-leaved ~~species~~ forms in that Genus, — that these forms were found in the richer kinds of soil, & were due more to hypertrophy than any other cause.

I have never found J. candatus, Thurm: in N. Car. I only know it from Florida specimens. — J. Elliottii may be Elliott's J. acuminatus (a name that has been sadly bandied about,) but I have no means of authenticating it.

Of Isoetes I know nothing, never having met with the living forms. I am, however, very thankful for your specimens. The Genus ought to be represented in N. Carolina, but I suspect that I have hoped by it, because it showed nothing but leaves.

Of Callitriche I know as little. I have specimens from correspondents, & have gathered a few here & there, (naming them as I best could,) & that is all I can say of them. But if you think it desirable & worth your while, I will send you fragments of what I have.

It mortifies me that I have to make so poor a response to your enquiries. The truth is, I am not a Botanist in the proper sense of the word. I never pretended to any thing more than Dilletanteism, which is all that our American Botanists ("so called" (three or four excepted) can lay claim to. I took up the subject for amusement, & have kept it up for the same. When it has no longer any fun in it, I shall throw it aside like an old coat, & with as little compunction. While I wear the coat, however, I must take the liberty of wearing it "wrong side out", if thereby I gain the more fun. But I shall always find pleasure in hearing from you. Truly your friend,

M. A. Curtis

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Rec'd Apl 18th
Ans July 13

Hillsborough, N.C. Apl: 12th 1866.

Dear Sir,

I have looked at the specimens in your letter of March 31st, & herewith report thereon. I am sorry you could not find the other Numbers. The species of most interest to me is your No 8 [Xylaria - now Sphaeria.] It is close akin to X. polymorpha, but very different in form from any I have ever seen. I shall send the specimen to Berkeley, to see what he thinks of it. In the meantime, I wish you would search your Garden for more.

A small Fungus on old bark, not numbered, nor included among the drawings, is Didymium xanthopus.

I am much obliged for the tuber Callitriche, which you had not sent before. I herewith enclose you part of the only N. Car: specimen in my Herbarium. It was found near Raleigh, & is labelled C. verna. Whether that is right or not, I can not say. Please inform me.

I find a specimen from western Louisiana

(legit Hale) marked C. brevifolia, Nutt. If you have not got this, I will divide with you.

The species of Juncus in my "immediate neighborhood" are effusus & tenuis. Within 40 miles around are also setaceus, marginatus, polycephalus, scirpoides, & dichotomus.

I write in some haste, but believe I have spoken to all essential matters.

Yours very truly,

M. A. Curtis.

P. S. — I have a young friend, J. C. Webb, who has lately gone to St. Louis, & is in the Store of Bell & Co, Dry Goods Dealers. I believe he has an Uncle in the city, who is a member of the Medical fraternity. Should occasion offer to favor my young friend in any way, you will favor me at the same time by noticing him.

P. P. S. — I have opened my letter to inclose a Photograph of your humble servant, expecting you to reciprocate in kind. I have quite a gallery of my correspondents, & I want yours.

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I give list here of such of your Fungi
as I can safely determine from your drawings,
in addition to your specimens.

6. Botrytis Viticola, Berk: & Curt.
7. Trichothecium roseum, Lk.
8. Fyxaria., n. sp?
10. Aspergillus crocatus, B & C.
14. Ascophora Mucedo, Tode
15. Cidium crustaceum, B & C.
15 b. Mycoderma, — spurious genus.
16. Microsphaera Friesii, Lev. (Erys: Syringae, Schwein.)
17. Ditto.
18. Uredo Ruborum, Schw.
20. Rastelia lacerata (Aecidium lacer: Som.)

Sp: Spermia x-shaped on bark

Phoma uvicola (pustular fungus)
B & C

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Rec'd Aug 1st Hillsborough, N. C. July 25/66
Ans Aug 13

My dear Doctor,

I was from home when your favor of 13th inst arrived, but now reply at my earliest convenience after returning.

I was sorry not to find your Carte enclosed, but am consoled with the promise of it one of these days. When I get it, I will send you a better specimen of myself. The one I sent you is deemed by my friends a mere caricature. It is certainly a poor specimen of Photographic art.

I am obliged to you for calling upon my young friend Webb, as he was highly gratified at the notice. He has, I learn, joined his brother in Alabama.

Your Grape specimens seem to be infested with the same Fungus which is common in the Carolinas. Yours, however, are immature, & I have been unable to find fruit, which is necessary for settling the species satisfactorily. Otherwise, yours

agree well with mine. For the present, then, call it Phoma nivicola, Berk: & Curt. I have hardly a doubt it is that species.

I look upon all these things as effects of disease, not the cause.

I rec'd your Paper on Fungi some time ago, & looked it over with much interest; but have not yet compared with my specimens. I was rather annoyed to find, when I got to the end, that the Monograph is not complete. Do not fail to send me the remainder, when it is printed, & at once. I have sent my Catalogue of N. Car: Plants to the Governor, & may wish to alter my list of Fungi if I can get your whole paper before the Catalogue is printed.

I hit upon a Fungus here a few days ago, & enclose a specimen. It looks like one of our common forms. What do you call it! — you are undoubtedly right in your views of the S. cylindricus. I was never well satisfied in making a species of it, & so told Chapman.

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I am at work now upon the Mammals & Reptiles of N. Car, & may follow them with a popular account of our Birds. I am trying to popularize our Nat: Hist. In "The Woody Plants" I was quite successful, as the edition went off at once, & I am urged to re-issue it.

Whatever I print I shall send you.

Yours very truly,

M. A. Curtis.

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Re Nov 11

Hillsborough, N. C. Nov. 6./67.

Viti.

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your Photo=graph. Now I know how you look, & my fancy is corrected. I had fancied a very different appearance;— more of the Teu=tonic than I discover in the likeness. I have quite a collection of these things, & I like much to look at them. As you have given me your age, I will announce mine which you can record on my card, if you choose. This was taken last January when I was 5 8 2/3 yrs. old. I shall be 60 next May.

The thing you send me, growing on Lemna, has no fruit; so that I can not give a hint even of the Genus. I would be glad to see it in maturity. If a Fungus, of which I have some doubt, it will be interesting & probably new. It is a curious place of growth.

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The Grapes of this State are V.
Labrusca, æstivalis, vulpina & cordifolia,
all of which are found in the district
where I live. I have never tasted any
of these in my neighborhood, which had
any particular merit. In the upper
part of the State, however, are many
very fine varieties, & which will, I think,
receive attention in the course of time.
Two are already in cultivation, known
as the Iron Grape, & the Lincoln Grape. Sev:
eral gentlemen in our Mountain region
are looking up wild varieties.

By the way, I forgot one variety of
V. æstivalis growing wild about 3 miles
from me, which I attempted last year
to cultivate, but my cuttings did not
take root. The berries are rather small,
amber-colored & pleasant flavored. Per=
haps in cultivation they would become
larger & more juicy. I think I will try
it again. Our Scuppernong is the
great favorite in this State, & much

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attention is now being given to its cul-
ture for the production of Wine & Brandy.

You know, probably, that this is a var:
of V. vulpina. [See my "Woody Plants of
N. Carolina" upon this & some others.]

My Catalogue of N. C. Plants is
finished at last. As soon as copies are
sent me I shall forward you one.

It is too late now to gather any
Grape seeds for you this year, or I
would send you some. If reminded of
your wants next season, I will try to
serve you. You must know, of couse,
that seeds will give a very uncertain
fruit. I have never obtained the true
Scuppernong from its seeds.

It is singular, that Pinus glabra
was so long overlooked. I did not before
know, that it was found out of S. Car.

Yours truly,

H. A. Curtis.

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Rec'd Apl 22

Hillsborough, N.C. Apl: 17th 1865.

Dr. Geo: Engelman,

Dear Sir,

To-day I rec'd your letter, & the packet of fungi. This is the most ac: ceptable & valuable parcel of plants I have received for many years; & I give you most hearty thanks for it. Quite a number of the species are new to me, & I now feel very Juncaceously rich.

It is no great matter, but I can not allow you to be at the expense of Postage on that packet. I therefore enclose 35 cts.

Thanks for your offer to "do any thing for me in Europe." I do not think of any thing wherewith to trouble you. Should I wish your service during your absence, I will write. I have done col: lecting, & so have pretty much ceased ex: changing. The examining Fungi sent me for determination gives me as much work as I can well devote to Botany.

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I have not received any letter from Dr. Hillgard.

I have been trying to get some Grape stocks for you. The cuttings I got last year died out. This year I have two others, from which I hope to get something. All are of the V. aestivalis species. I am continually hearing of fine wild varieties, but I find it hard to get hold of them.

Wishing you a pleasant visit to Fa-derland, & a safe return,

very truly yours,

M. A. Curtis.

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Acc. April 14th
Ans. Apl 15

Hillsborough, N. C. March 29/71

Dr. Engelmann,

Dear Sir,

I have rec'd yours of the 16th inst., & am glad to find that you are still dallying with Dame Flora, tho' I have myself quit flirting with my old Floral Mistress. In June '69 I became subject to an affection of the head which put a stop to head-work, especially to the use of the Microscope. I have nearly recovered; but I dare not resume my old habits. In the mean time I have been winding up my botanical affairs, supposing that I should never more be able to give them attention. I am now trying to put my Herbarium in some kind of order, having offered it for sale to the highest bidder. "Going! Going!" is now my cry.

It is so long since I paid any attention to Flowering Plants, that

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my interest in them, much more my knowledge, has diminished. In fact, I consider my botanical career as closed.

As to your present hobby - Yucca - I never attempted to mount it, & only followed after it as ridden by Elliott. It seems to me, that you consulted me, many years ago, about the fruit of Y. gloriosa, & that I gave it as among the pulpy sorts. Beyond this I can not help you, as the thing does not grow in this region. Perhaps Ravenel (H. W. Ravenel, Aiken, S. C.) can furnish you with the fruit.

In the matter of the "Flash Pine" I have to confess that I never saw it. All I have reported of it was derived from others, chiefly from Ruffin, who, tho' a keen observer, was not a Botanist. His opinion, therefore, on a critical point, would be of no great value. I have, to-day, consulted a friend, an educated & very observing man, who formerly lived on the Roanoke, & is well

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acquainted with this Pine on his own lands.
He thinks it a different species from P.
tæda; tho', aside from its different locality
& larger growth, & different heart, he only
mentioned its shorter leaves. As he is not
a Botanist, I should accept this latter
item with some caution.

I have sold my Elliott, & can not refer to
him about his tæda-heterophylla.

That Pine sent you by Ravenel is the
same, I presume, which he sent me, a
few years ago, as P. inops. I think I re-
ferred it to P. rigida. I have always
been in doubt about this P. rigida of the
South. Unfortunately the material for
a solution of the difficulty is not in my
profession. I hope you will work it out.

The P. serotina is a clear case. I
sent you the true thing. Its characters
are well marked.

If you would like to see Ruffin's paper
on our Pines, & I can find it among
my pamphlets, I will lend it to you.

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I am sorry that I can not give you more satisfaction on your enquiries. I have done the best I can. But what service could you expect from a man who put off his Phanogamic armor twenty years ago, & enlisted in the Lilliputian ranks of the Microscopists!

I presume you enjoyed yourself among the Deutsch-sprechen-ers during your absence abroad. Sein sie von Preus=sen? — What a splendid Kaenigsreich! Whipped Austria in six weeks:- France in a few months! The grandest exhibi=tion of military skill in the world's history! I hope she will exercise her power with discretion & justice.

yours truly,

M. A. Curtis.

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CURTIS

Hillsborough, N. C. April 22/71

Rec'd April 26'

Ans May 6

Dear Sir,

As I mentioned in a former letter, I have never seen the Slash Pine:- i.e. the Tree in situ. Dr. McRee gave too much weight to my off-hand opinion, when he shewed me a branch of Rosemary Pine at his house. I then had no idea there were any other species of Pine about Wilmington than what were already described in the Books, & what I had myself seen; & consequently I had no hesitation in pronouncing it the tæda. I gave it no critical examination.

A few days ago I rec'd from Mr. Ravenel a branch of your P. Elliottii, with a mature cone, from Bluffton. I have merely deposited it, without examination, in my Herbarium. It looks like a branch I have from Florida, given me by Canby.

Your best chance for specimens is through Ravenel. I know of no one

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in this State who can help us. Dr. McRee died a year or two since;- Mr. Ruffin (of Virginia), in 1865. — I never took Russell's Magazine (published in Charles= ton, S.C.) & can not tell when Ruffin's Es= say was printed in it. Ravenel does not remember anything about the Article. I only knew of it by M. Ruffin sending it to me. But in hunting this up for you, the other day, I came upon the same thing (which I had quite for= gotten,) in his "Sketches of Lower N. Carolina" (printed in 1861,) which forms part of the Reports of our "Agricultural & Geological Survey."

The opinion of my neighbor, who used to live on the Roanoke, in regard to the "shorter leaves" of the Slash Pine, I am satisfied should not be received. So, do not let that trouble you. In my specimen lately rec^{d}, as well as in the Florida one, the leaves seem to be more in 2's than in 3^{s}, 8 or 9 inches long.

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I am quite willing to part with my Walter, & with any of my Botanical books, as well as with my Herbarium, inasmuch as I have no further use for them, & none of my family would value them, nor know how to dispose of them. If I could afford it, I would give my Herbarium to Cambridge. As it is, it must go to the highest bidder. - I have had some correspondence with the Agricultural Department at Washington in reference to it; but nothing is yet decided.

I send Walter with this letter. Give me a dollar for it; - or, accept it as a gift; - as you prefer. I am glad it goes where it will be appreciated.

Leben sie wohl,

M. A. Curtis.

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